

Jamie Carr
Matt Harrow
Shelly Thompson
Christine Merker

Mendler's 5 Keys to Motivation!

Building relationships:

The most successful relationship I developed during student teaching was with a child named Caroline. Her parents got divorced a couple years ago and it's clear that there is a lack of communication in the household. She is rarely held accountable for her school work, constantly forgets her homework and/or books, and cries often. Instead of letting her get lost in the shuffle, I paid special attention to Caroline. When she began crying, I found out why, told her to take deep breaths, and explained to her how it would be okay and why there was no need to cry. Ultimately, all she wanted was attention and I found ways to give that to her BEFORE the tears started. She hated not doing well in school, but wasn't given the individualized attention needed by her teachers, and clearly wasn't getting that at home either. The moment that I knew I had made a breakthrough and really motivated her to do well is when I made a rhyme for her to help her in math. She was struggling passing her 12s and was panicking when given the "sundae tests". After I saw her struggle, particularly on 12×7 , I made this rhyme:

A rhyme for Caroline

$12 \times 7 = 84$, don't you worry any more

She instantly lit up, and the next day when I asked her if she was ready to take the test, her friends jumped in and said the rhyme to me. Caroline had shared the rhyme with her friends, because it meant so much to her, and passed the test with flying colors.

It's this individualized attention that made Caroline thrive. She stopped the crying and the acting out because she knew that I noticed her. In turn, she brought her assignments in on time and clearly began to give a more concerted effort in her work.